[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

ല്ലെന്ന ചീഫ് ഇഞ്ചിനീയരുടെ മറുപടിയിൽ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിലേക്ക് അദ്ദേഹം പറയുന്ന സമാധാനം ഈ തുകയ്ക്ക് ഞാടങ്കലുകൾ തയ്യാറാക്കിവരുത്തി പരിശോധനകൾ കഴിഞ്ഞു വേലകൾ നടത്താൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല എന്നാണ്. ൻൻ-ൽ മൂന്നുലക്ഷംരൂപാ ചിലവാക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ അതിനടുത്തകൊല്ലം ചിലവാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതായാലും അതുകൊണ്ടു തൃപ്തിപ്പെടാവുന്നതാണ്.

മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വേലകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു കുറെക്കാലമായി ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും കാണിച്ചുപോരുന്ന ശ്രദ്ധക്കുറവിനാലാണ് ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരു പ്രമേയം ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളത്. കഴിഞ്ഞ കൌൺസിലിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ വേലുപ്പിള്ള കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തിനു ചീഫ് ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള മറുപടിയും ഇന്നേദിവസം ഞാൻ ഹാജരാക്കീട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തിനു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള സമാധാനങ്ങളും കൊണ്ട് എന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെപ്പറ്റി വീണ്ടും നിബന്ധപൂർവ്വം വാദം നടത്തണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ ഞാൻ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻവലിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *RE*: A COMMITTEE TO REGULATE SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES.

PRESIDENT: The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman and runs as follows:

"That this Council recommends to Government that a committee with a non official majority be appointed to consider and propose measures for regulating the expenses under salaries and allowances of officers, so that the same may not exceed 30 per cent of the total revenues of the State."

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN: ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളവും അലവൻസും വകയ്ക്കുള്ള ചിലവു മുതലെടുപ്പിൽ മുപ്പതു ശതമാനത്തിൽ അധികപ്പെടാത്തവിധം നിയന്ത്രിക്കുന്നതിന് അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥരിപക്ഷത്തോടുകൂടിയ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്ന് ഈ യോഗം ഗവർൺമെൻറിനോടു ശുപാർശചെയ്യുന്നു എന്നാണ് എന്റെ പ്രമേയം.

ഈ പ്രമേയം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു നേരിട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അധിക ധനവ്യയത്തെ പരിമിതമായതോതിൽ നിയന്ത്രിച്ചു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ക്ഷേമത്തിനായി അവശ്യം ചെയ്യേണ്ട വലിയ ചിലവുകൾക്കു ജനങ്ങളിൽ കൂടുതൽ നികുതിഭാരം ചുമത്താതെ

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നിവ്വഹിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു കഴിവുണ്ടാകണമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടെ കൊണ്ടു വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഇപ്പോഴും മുതലെടുപ്പിൽ എത്ര പങ്കു് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തിനും സഞ്ചാരപ്പടിക്കുമായി നീക്കിവെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ബഡ്ജറിൽ നിന്നും വ്യക്തമായി അറിവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഏകദേശം മുപ്പത്തേഴു ശതമാനത്തോളം വരുമെന്നുദ്ദേശിക്കാം. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ പല വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും പരിഷ്കരിച്ചു നിറുത്തിക്കളയാം. പല വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും ദിവസത്തിൽ ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ മണിക്കൂർപോലും ജോലി ചെയ്യാതെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സമയത്തെ സ്വന്ത സുഖസൌകര്യങ്ങൾക്കായി വിനിയോഗിക്കയാണു്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ളവക്കു ജോലി അധികമെന്നുള്ള നിലയിൽ വച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള അസിസ്റ്റൻറന്മാരേയും പേഴ്സനൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറന്മാരെയും കുറച്ചുകളയാം. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ പലരുടേയും സക്കീട്ടുകൊണ്ടു് അവക്കു് ആദായത്തിനു വകയുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടില്ലാതെ ഗവർൺമെൻറ് ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന ഗുണങ്ങൾ മിക്കവാറും ലഭിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഓരോ സ്ഥലത്തും സക്കീട്ടു വരുമ്പോൾ അതാതു സ്ഥലത്തെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ എന്തെല്ലാമെന്നും കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ നിന്നും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വല്ല ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നും അതാതു സ്ഥലത്തെ മാന്യപൌരന്മാരോടു ചോദിച്ചറിയുന്നതിനു് ഇവർ മിക്കവാറും ഒരുക്കമുള്ളവരായി കാണുന്നില്ല. തലസ്ഥാന നഗരത്തു നിന്നു വളരെ ദൂരത്തു കിടക്കുന്നതും, യാത്രാസൌകര്യം കുറഞ്ഞതും, വിവരങ്ങൾ ഉടനടൻ ശരിയായി ഗ്രഹിക്കുവാൻ പ്രയാസമുള്ളതുമായ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കല്ല, സുഖമായി കാർ ഓടിച്ചു സഞ്ചരിക്കുവാൻ സൌകര്യമുള്ള തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കാണു് ഇവരിൽ പലരും അടിക്കടി സക്കീട്ടു ചെയ്യാറുള്ളതു്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നിലയിൽ സഞ്ചാരപ്പടി ഇനത്തിലുള്ള ചിലവു കുറെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു രാജ്യത്തിനും പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഗുണമല്ലാതെ യാതൊരു ദോഷത്തിനും വകയില്ല. ചെങ്കോട്ട കൊല്ലം റെയിൽവെ, കൊല്ലം തിരുവനന്തപുരം റെയിൽവെ, ഇവകൾക്കായി ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു് നേരിട്ട ഋണബാദ്ധ്യതയിൽ നിന്നും ഗവർൺമെൻറു വേണ്ടപോലെ മോചനം പ്രാപിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. അധികധനവ്യയം നേരിടുന്ന തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കുള്ള റെയിൽവെ, സ്പ്രുകചാശാല, ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കുള്ള റെയിൽവെ, ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കുള്ള മെയിൻറോഡു് മോട്ടാർവാഹനങ്ങൾക്കു സഞ്ചരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ശരിപ്പെടുത്തുക, ഇവയെല്ലാം ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻറെ ആലോചനയിൽപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളവയാണല്ലോ. രാജ്യത്തു നിർബ്ബന്ധവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുക, ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ ഗതാഗതത്തിനു വേണ്ട റോഡുകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കു

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

കമ്മിറ്റായ സംഗതികളും അചിരേണ അധിക ധനവ്യയം ചെയ്യേ സാധിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവർൺമെൻറു അവശ്യം പുറപ്പെടേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഭാവിയെപ്പററി ചിന്തിക്കുമ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങളുടെ മേൽ വലിയ നികുതികൾ ചുമത്താതെ ഈ വക കാര്യങ്ങൾ നിവ്വഹിക്കുവാൻ പ്രയാസമാകുമെന്നും വലിയ നികുതികൾ ചുമത്തുന്നതു ജനസാമാന്യത്തിനു സങ്കടകാരണമായിത്തീരുന്നതാണെന്നും കാണാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ നിലയ്ക്കു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളവും പടിയും വകയ്ക്കുള്ള ചിലവിനെ അമിതമായി വർദ്ധിക്കാതെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കുന്നതിന് ഒരുമ്പെടേണ്ടതു് എത്രയും ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാത്ത കൃത്യമാണു. മുപ്പതു ശതമാനത്തിൽ അധികപ്പെടാതെ ഇവയെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു വലുതായ ഒരു സംഖ്യ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു പ്രതിവത്സരം നല്ല കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു ചിലവു ചെയ്യുന്നതിനായി ലഭിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അമിതമായി വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവർൺമെൻറിനുണ്ടാകുന്ന ധനവ്യയത്തിനും പുറമെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കും കഷ്ടതകൾ വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നുവെന്നാണ് പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായമെന്നുകൂടി പറയാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഇതിലേക്ക് ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി അഭിപ്രായം അറിയുന്നതു കൊണ്ടു വളരെ ഗുണങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകുവാനുണ്ട്. അതിലേക്കുള്ള വ്യയം ഒരിക്കലും ദുർവ്യയമായി പരിണമിക്കയില്ല. അതിനാൽ എൻറെ പ്രേമയുക്തരായ മാന്യന്മാരായ നിങ്ങൾ എവരും അനുകൂലിക്കുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: I second the resolution.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: I also support the resolution. This is a subject which has over come up before the Council since its formation. We are not satisfied with the retrenchment that has already been made. There is a strong feeling in the country—and I am sure it is the feeling among the members here also—that much more of the Geddes and the Inchcape axes might be very freely used than hitherto. What is everybody's business seems to be nobody's business. I will just take the P. W. D., without meaning anything against the Chief Engineer, who I think, is one of the best officers in the service. Look at the gravel heaped pell-mell on the road-side. Engineers, Assistant Engineers, Overseers, etc., etc., are as plenty as blackberries. I have to go with my heart in my mouth, when I go up or come down the Patturkunnu road near the cemetery turn, where large granite stones are heaped taking up a good portion of the narrow road, for fear of being run over by a bus or a car. When the latter passes me at this dangerous curve, a sinful wish always takes hold of me that the occupant was the P. W. D. officer responsible for this culpable neglect of life and property and the car would crash against these boulders and throw the officer into one of

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the cemeteries close by. One portion of the road there was, about a year ago, widened, but it is made more dangerous than before as the lamp-post which still stands in the old place prevents the widened portion being used. Red-tapism is the order of the day. I wish the committee that has been appointed to reduce expenditure would remove the item for purchasing red-tape. There is also too much of paper administration, and I know what it is. Look at that splendid piece of architecture, the Public Offices, which was built by *one* Engineer and *one* Supervisor, at which Sir T. Madhava Rao is still gazing in admiration. Compare the General Hospital, which is being built with a great deal of reinforced concrete and supervised by a number of Engineers, with the Public Offices. Where there is divided responsibility, everybody shirks his work. What I would therefore bring to the attention of the members of this Council is that we must fight a very good fight and see that we get our money's worth from the officers of the Travancore service who are given fat salaries.

As regards travelling allowances, now that locomotion has been made so very easy, every time an officer goes to Quilon or Nagercoil in his car, he puts into his pocket Rs. 20 or so for a few hours' journey, and he gets a similar amount again when he comes back. In days gone by, we had to travel by the canals, and supervising work was done very much better than now. With these words, I support the resolution.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Sir, I also support the resolution.

MR. K. GEORGE: Sir, my friend Mr. Kunjitomman's resolution is that

"This Council recommends to Government that a committee with a non-official majority be appointed to consider and propose measures for regulating the expenses under salaries and allowances of officers, so that the same may not exceed 30 per cent. of the total revenues of the State".

While listening to his speech, I was expecting to hear how he came to fix 30 per cent. as the proper proportion of salaries to the revenues of the State.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: I beg to know what the present percentage is.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN: ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ശതമാനം എത്രയാണ്?

MR. K. GEORGE: I shall refer to that just now. He spoke of 30 per cent. of the State revenue as the adequate percentage to be spent on salaries. I do not know of any authority who has laid down this dictum; nor do I think it ever possible for any Government to fix an absolute and unalterable percentage of its revenue as the proper percentage to be set apart for expenditure on salaries and allowances of officers.

Now, let us examine what Mr. Kunjitomman's proposal will involve. We are now spending about 37·5 per cent. of the revenues of the State on account of salaries.

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[Mr. K. George.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: Has that figure been arrived at upon any particular basis?

MR. K. GEORGE: I have worked it out from the budget.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: I wish to know whether the figure has been fixed on any basis?

MR. K. GEORGE: I do not follow. I say the figure has been arrived at by working out from the actuals.

The percentage now spent is 37·5 for salaries and 2 for allowances. It will be seen from the budget that our revenue is roughly Rs. 2 crores. The member's proposal if carried out would necessitate a reduction to the extent of Rs. 19 lakhs under salaries and allowances. This is obviously quite unattainable. The total cost of all appointments in the State on Rs. 150 and above is only Rs. 16¼ lakhs. To this, it might be replied that retrenchment need not be confined to the superior officers but might be extended to the subordinate staff also.

I shall first deal with the subordinate staff. That the pay of the subordinate staff is not adequate has been repeatedly emphasised in this Council itself. We have now a resolution tabled for discussion in this House that the salary of the Vernacular School teachers should be increased. No one in this Council will, I think, be prepared to say that the present salary of the subordinate staff is excessive. Coming to the number of such officers, obviously no substantial saving can be effected by abolishing a few clerical and menial posts. We have already made substantial cuts in this direction and reduced for instance—I am speaking only of appointments below Rs. 150—

Executive subordinates	...	247.
Clerks	...	451.
Menials	...	397.

I do not think that any further substantial reduction can be made in any department without risk to its efficiency. Thus, it is clear that we cannot make any substantial reduction either in the number or the pay of the subordinate staff.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: Have they been sent away or sent to other departments?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise here.

MR. K. GEORGE: With regard to the superior staff, there also it may be urged that it is possible to reduce the number or salary, or both, of the officers. The total cost of the superior services is Rs 16¼ lakhs and the total number of such appointments is 503. We have already abolished 26 appointments resulting in a saving of about Rs. 93,000. Here also I think that no further reduction is possible.

I will compare the ratio we have here between the superior and the inferior staff, with that obtaining in Madras and Mysore.

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The proportion of the number of the superior to the inferior staff in Madras is 33; that is, for every 33 inferior appointments there is one superior appointment. In Mysore, the ratio is 49. In Travancore, it is 51. That is to say, for every 51 subordinate posts there is only one superior post in Travancore.

Turning next to the cost of the superior posts, there also I would compare our figures with those of Madras and Mysore.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know whether the figures quoted relate to the figures after retrenchment?

MR. K. GEORGE: They are from the latest budget, that of 1922-23.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: May I know the strength of infantry in Mysore?

MR. K. GEORGE: I am only speaking of the reduction of salaries of superior officers.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: In fixing the total number and percentage, it may be that there is such a large number of soldiers in Mysore——

MR. K. GEORGE: I am not sure if my office, in making the calculation, took into account the expenditure on the military also.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Do the superior services include only civil appointments and not military?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: May I know whether the salary of the British officer is not generally at least 50 per cent. higher than that of the corresponding officer here? Thereby the proportion will be less than what you show.

MR. K. GEORGE: That is an argument in my favour, of which I will speak later. In Madras Rs. 58 is spent on the superior staff for every Rs. 100 spent on the subordinate staff. In Mysore Rs. 35 is spent on the superior staff for every Rs. 100 spent on the subordinate staff.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: A great deal of the increase might be due to the entertainment of Europeans in service.

PRESIDENT: You mean in Madras or in Mysore?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: In Madras.

MR. K. GEORGE: In Travancore it is only Rs. 27 for every Rs. 100 spent on the subordinate staff. My contention, therefore, is that, comparatively, the cost of the superior services in Travancore is not as high as in the province of Madras or in the sister State of Mysore. As regards the salaries, the question was discussed at length in the last budget session. It was then claimed by certain members on the other side that the salaries of the superior officers in the State were too high and that it was possible to make considerable reductions in them. Against this, it was contended by members

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[Mr. K. George.]

on this side of the House that the salaries of officers in Travancore were not as high as those obtaining elsewhere for men doing the same work and having the same qualifications. After all, the salaries ought to depend a great deal on the qualifications of the men entertained and the duties we expect of them. I might cite one example. The District Munsiff in Madras possesses the same qualifications as his namesake in Travancore, and, I believe, he has only a smaller number of cases in his court than here. What do we, however, find as regards the salaries of these officers? The District Munsiff in Madras starts on Rs. 300 and has a time-scale up to Rs. 600. Here, even the District Judge does not get that pay. Let us take any other department, for instance, the Education Department. We want the professors in our colleges to be men of deep learning and high attainments. If we lower the salary, we would not get the right type of men. In British India, a professor in the Imperial Educational Service gets a pay rising to Rs. 1,750. Our professors with the same or better qualifications rise only up to Rs. 750. It is the degree of efficiency and consequently the kind of men that we want that should determine the salary. I object to it as a proposition that officers here should be far less paid than officers in Mysore. I do not thereby say that officers here should be paid more than what they get now. My object is only to show that the officers are not at present over-paid and that the cost of salaries of superior officers is not excessive.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: Here the Dewan gets only the same salary as that of a Collector. Is this comparison sound, *viz.*, the comparison between British India and Native States?

MR. K. GEORGE: I have given reasons for my proposition.

PRESIDENT: He has already given reasons that, for men of the same qualification, the salaries here should not be much lower than elsewhere.

MR. K. GEORGE: I will pass on to another point. I have been saying that a reduction to the extent of Rs. 19 lakhs is not practicable by a reduction in the number or salary of either the superior or subordinate staff. Again, we cannot make any reduction as far as I can see in the nation-building departments, *viz.*, education, public health, industries, irrigation and public works. In the case of these departments, what the Government require and what the Council expects is to spend more. The utility of these departments depends to a large extent on personal services, and so, if the departments should increase their usefulness we shall have to increase their establishments. If we want more schools, we must have more teachers. If better medical aid has to be provided, we shall have to employ more medical officers. My point, therefore, is that this large reduction which my friend Mr. Kunjitomman contemplates is absolutely impossible.

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Now, I wish to compare Travancore, Madras and Mysore as regards the cost of salaries as a whole. In Travancore we spend 37·5 per cent. of the revenue for salaries and 2 per cent. for travelling allowances. In Madras according to their preliminary budget for 1923-24, 38·1 per cent. is spent on salaries and 3·6 per cent on travelling allowances. In Mysore, the proportion is 36·5 per cent. for salaries and 3·4 per cent. for travelling allowances. I must here say that the percentages are somewhat vitiated for two reasons. First of all, in our last budget, owing to the absence of information about the actual pay to officers after the reorganisation, we had to provide for the average cost of appointments in many cases, whereas, in Madras and Mysore, the actuals alone are provided; and these will, on the whole, be considerably less than the averages. If allowance is made for this, the percentage in Travancore will be found to be lower. Another factor to be taken into account is the existence of higher time-scales in Madras and Mysore which means that Madras and Mysore will ultimately be spending much more on salaries than what they spend now and what Travancore will at any time have to spend.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI: May I ask whether the cost of living there is not greater than the cost of living here?

MR. K. GEORGE: I have no precise information; but I do not think there is considerable difference. I might also say that from the last year's figures it is seen that Madras spent 54 per cent. of the total revenue on salaries and allowances.

Then, it might be said that there has been a disproportionate increase of salaries in recent years. In 1094, *i. e.*, before the advent of the reorganisation, we spent, on superior posts, Rs. 14½ lakhs. Now it has risen to Rs. 16¼ lakhs. This increase is not primarily due to increases of pay given in the reorganisation, but mostly to the creation of new posts like those of the Land Revenue Commissioner, the Devaswom Commissioner, the Industrial Officers, etc. necessitated by unavoidable exigencies. The increase due directly to the reorganisation is only Rs. 10,000. The rest is due to the increase of appointments. As regards the subordinate staff, the major portion of the increases is due to the revision of salaries necessitated by the increase in the cost of living.

I shall now deal with the question of travelling allowance. As I have already pointed out, the expenditure in Travancore on travelling allowance is only 2 per cent. of the total revenues, whereas in Madras it is 3·6 per cent. and in Mysore 3·4 per cent. We are spending much less on travelling allowances than other Provinces and States; and in spite of the recent increase in the number of appointments the expenditure is only the same as it was three or four years ago. The percentage of T. A. to total expenditure in 1088 was 2·87 while, in 1097, it was 2·07. It is still only 2·07. We have been mercilessly cutting down T. A. claims.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: May I know whether merciless cutting down is conducive to efficiency of service? (*Laughter.*)

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[Mr. G. Parmesvaran Pillai.]

MR. K. GEORGE: We are trying to have all the travelling done within the budget allotment sanctioned.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: That is not an answer.

MR. K. GEORGE: Reduction of travelling allowance is possible in two ways. One is by reducing the amount of travelling. As Mr. Velu Pillai has suggested, that is not altogether good except when unnecessary travelling is done. The other course is to reduce the allotment for travelling allowance. By merely reducing the allotment we do not attain any useful purpose. The reduction in expenditure should be accomplished by reducing the rates of travelling allowance, and that question is now under the consideration of Government. Meanwhile, we are cutting down the T. A. considerably, and our expenditure is, as I already said, much lower than in other places.

Sir, my contention is not that there is absolutely no possibility of any retrenchment whatsoever. We can no doubt effect some retrenchment here and there. My position is that there is no need to appoint a committee for this purpose. For making a few reductions here and there, it is not necessary that a committee should sit and deliberate. We had a Salaries Committee which considered the question in all its aspects. That consisted of three non-officials and three officials.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Did the Salaries Committee consider the salaries of superior officers who get more than Rs. 150?

MR. K. GEORGE: Yes; it did.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Was it a point of reference to the committee?

MR. K. GEORGE: It was not originally; but the committee was subsequently allowed to consider that also.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: I wish to know whether its recommendations have been given effect to by the Government?

MR. K. GEORGE: Most of the recommendations of the Salaries Committee have been acted upon.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Does it mean that all the recommendations of the Salaries Committee have been accepted?

MR. K. GEORGE: No, it does not mean that. I was saying that the Salaries Committee has carefully gone into the question. It consisted of three non-officials, two of whom are members of this Council, and all the members of the committee except one are here. The total number of hands reduced by the Government as a result of the consideration of their recommendations is—

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know whether the Salaries Committee had any idea as to the creation of new appointments

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in consequence of which there has been an increase in the expenditure on superior service ?

MR. K. GEORGE: I daresay they had ; because they knew that the reorganisations of certain departments like the Land Revenue and the Devaswom were under contemplation.

The reductions are—

Gazetted staff	...	65
Executive	...	247
Clerks	...	451
Menials	...	397
		1,160

Altogether 1,160 posts have been reduced. That is a matter on which the Government have a right to congratulate themselves. The Salaries Committee having considered this question and the Government having accepted most of its recommendations, I say it would not be fair to appoint another committee to reconsider the question and to make further suggestions. I say it is unnecessary, because we have not come to that pass as regards our finance. In Mysore, Madras and in the Imperial Government, retrenchment committees have become absolutely necessary, because of their heavy increasing deficits year after year. Our finances are not in such a dangerous condition. If we exercise caution and prudence, our position will not at all be unsatisfactory. A further committee to consider the salaries and allowances, besides the one that has already considered the subject, is in my opinion quite unnecessary.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: I wish to know whether, in consideration of the proposed reduction to thirty per cent. the proposed committee will not be helpful in regulating the expenditure.

PRESIDENT: That does not arise here.

MR. K. GEORGE: I have got only one more point to state. This Council has its Finance Committee. Of course, its powers are limited to the extent defined in the Government Order constituting it. It has however one power, *viz.*, consideration of the budget. I daresay that there will be no objection to the Finance Committee going into the excess or otherwise in the establishments at the time it considers the budget. At the same time, the committee can have the help of the heads of departments also, if desired.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I draw the attention of the Finance member to the G. O., which states:

"The functions of the committee shall be to examine the draft annual budget so far as the same is within the cognisance of the Council".

That takes away the power to examine the salaries and allowances of appointments above Rs. 125.

PRESIDENT: You have another way of controlling that. That you know already.

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. K. GEORGE: My last point is that this Council has also the liberty of moving resolutions and also making proposals for reduction of grants at the time of the budget.

PRESIDENT: We will now adjourn for lunch and meet again at 3 P. M.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-15 P. M.

The Council re-assembled at 3-5 P. M.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I support the motion of Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman. In so supporting, I have to observe that the comparisons made by Mr. George in regard to the subject under discussion are not convincing. The figures quoted by him are all dfawn from systems of administration not altogether similar to the one we have got in Travancore. There is a good deal of reason for accepting the motion, as may be seen from the various motions brought forward when the budget was under discussion. Then it was said that there was the possibility of further retrenchment. Where the resolution seeks to restrict the expenditure upon the service to 30 per cent., I find it difficult to accept it, because that is too hard and fast a rule. I hope the mover will make the resolution a little elastic.

PRESIDENT: Do you propose that as an amendment?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I am prepared to propose that by way of amendment, if need be.

PRESIDENT: You have not given notice of any amendment. Any member may object to the amendment.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Then, not as a regular amendment. If the mover is agreeable, he may accept the suggestion and make an amendment.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN: ഞാൻ ആ ഭേദഗതിയെ സ്വീകരിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: I do not allow him to propose that amendment.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Then, with respect to the appointment of the committee, I would also suggest another thing in passing. The present Finance Committee may be so enlarged as to be converted into a Retrenchment Committee as has been done in Madras. With these observations, I also support the necessity for a Travancore Geddes or Inchcape Committee with a fairly sharp axe.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I also find it very difficult to accept the point of view taken by Mr. George. He has quoted several figures. Figures are like cement slabs; for, when they are put in proper places, it is difficult to dislodge them from their position. But all the same, his arguments do not carry conviction to us on this side of the House.

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He has made comparisons of the establishment in Travancore with those in Madras and Mysore. Equipment, buildings, and the status and prestige of officers in particular States should depend upon the importance of such States. I think that no Indian Ruler would think of maintaining a palace like the Buckingham Palace or the St. James's Palace or to maintain an army or navy merely to be an object of admiration and wonder to the world. It is a well-known maxim of commonsense that every man should cut his coat according to his cloth. So, there is no justification to imitate other States and spend on the service much more than we could afford.

Travancore, as everybody knows, is only less than a twentieth part of the Madras Presidency. I cannot therefore agree to look upon the question in the manner in which Mr. George has done. Because a District Munsift in British India gets a salary of up to Rs. 650, Mr. George says that the District Munsiff here should also be paid an equal amount, at any rate something like that. He also says that an initial salary of Rs. 200 is not sufficient for Munsiffs in Travancore and that there would be no applicants for such posts if that salary is not raised. On the other hand, we find that, when any important post falls vacant, the number of applications is swelling beyond all reasonable limit. So, a reduction in salaries would not make it impossible for the Travancore Government to get proper officers.

What we cannot relish and cannot appreciate is the readiness on the part of the Government to create new appointments. This wrong policy has been going on for the last twenty or twenty-five years. In spite of all the vehement manner in which the representatives of the people place their views before the Government, whether it be in the Assembly or in this Council, we find that arrangements are sanctioned which do not commend themselves to the bulk of His Highness' subjects. Somehow or other, in Travancore, Government have been fascinated by a desire to create more appointments. I do not question the good faith of Government. Government sanction the appointments under the belief that people require more protection. Unfortunately, that is not a correct point of view. Government are obliged to sanction the recommendations of heads of departments without looking into the merits of each case. There was a lot of criticism about this at the time of the last budget discussion. Although a good many of us raised our voices against the appointment of too many petty officers and sub-inspectors in the Excise Department and of an unnecessary number of District Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police we were not able to carry those points. But I may say that there is a good deal of feeling in the country that most of these officers are appointed simply because the Government are made to believe that they are necessary and not because they are actually necessary.

I have on this occasion to refer to one of such appointments. There are two Head Sirkar Vakils. There is the Head Sirkar Vakil and there is the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil. No doubt, there is some additional work owing to the expansion of the Legislative Council. I cannot find any virtue

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[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

in entrusting all legislative work to a particular individual. Officers of Government, several of whom are supposed to be very efficient and who sit here during all the sessions of the Council, do not require the services of a Law Officer on all occasions. It was the custom in the old Travancore Legislative Council for the officers themselves to draft bills and pilot them through the Council. Now, because there is the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil, who is in charge of the legislative duties, who always drafts bills and takes them on through the Council, it leads to the atrophy of the powers of other officers, so that, in course of time, if Government want a particular officer to draft a bill pertaining to his department, that officer will not be able to do so. I do not think that the existing practice is a wise one. I must also say that the work to be turned out by the Head Sirkar Vakil is not so great as to require an Additional Head Sirkar Vakil also. I am referring to this as one instance. Because two appointments were created at one time they are perpetuated for all time. I cannot understand the particular difficulty in putting a stop to the arrangement. It may be inconvenient to dispense with these additional officers all at once. It may be ill-advised. It may be difficult. All the same, there is the supreme sense of duty which induces me to place this matter before the House. All our troubles due to the increase of salaries of officers have been the creation of Government. Government have been making appointments which are unnecessary, appointments which will not serve the purpose for which they are made. I need not dwell at more length upon this subject. The resolution that has been moved is a very necessary one, and I cannot impress it upon the consideration of the House with too much emphasis.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, I am not concerned so much with the figures supplied by Mr. George or with the comparisons that he has instituted between the expenditure on the service in this State and that in other countries like Mysore or Madras, as with the admirable frankness and friendliness with which he, unlike the Finance Members elsewhere, told this House that there is room for retrenchment here and there, probably by abolishing certain intermediaries like the Assistant Superintendents of Police and certain Assistant Excise Commissioners and also the Assistant Commissioner at Devicolam and so forth. Evidently, I take him to mean that the retrenchment that is capable of being effected in the public service is not such as would require the full-time attention of a Retrenchment Committee.

But, however that be, I find it extremely difficult to accept the resolution as it stands. I would have accepted it in its entirety had the mover had the reputation of a Geddes or an Inchcape. That has yet to be proved. Secondly, I find no data which enabled the mover to fix 30 per cent. as the maximum that should be spent upon the State service. I am absolutely in the dark as to how and under what circumstances he arrived at this figure and what authority he has for the same.

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It is only the other day, barely less than a year ago that this House, in spite of the humble protest that I made in my own way, allowed the reorganisation of the various departments to go intact ; and that, admittedly, must have made considerable dislocation in the service. Personally, I know that hundreds of men, who have put in varying terms of service, have been thrown out of employment. I am sure that, in spite of the intercession of the non-official members, it would take two or three years before all these persons could be reinstated in service. That is due to the reorganisation that was sanctioned by this House. Had we been able to disallow the extra expenditure provided in the last budget, there would have been no difficulty, and we would have been in a position to press home to the Government the necessity to appoint a Retrenchment Committee. I submit that, personally, I am convinced that there is some room for retrenchment; and with that idea, I had sent up a resolution wording it in my own way. I think that, by certain readjustments and by abolishing certain intermediary posts, it would be possible to make some retrenchment. I find, on a perusal of the G. O. relating to the constitution of the Finance Committee, that there is no difficulty for the Government to allow the Finance Committee to do it; and I would suggest that the matter of further retrenchment may be kindly referred to the Finance Committee of this Council, which is to meet and spend some time in the preparation of the budget. I understand that the Government are free to refer any financial question they please for the Finance Committee's enquiry and report and the question of further retrenchment is a matter which, I submit, the Government, out of deference to the wishes of the non-official members, ought to refer to the Finance Committee. If no member on the other side of the House objects, I would move an amendment that this Council recommends to the Government that the Standing Finance Committee be asked to consider and propose measures for regulating the expenses under salaries and allowances. I believe no member on this side of the House is likely to raise any objection and as such the amendment would be in order. So, I beg to move that this Council recommends to the Government that the Standing Finance Committee be asked to consider and propose measures for regulating the expenses under salaries and allowances.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid I must object to that amendment as an amendment. I am speaking as a member. As has been said by the Financial Secretary, there is the Finance Committee which is to consider the budget. Consideration of the budget is consideration of every part of the budget. And it is open to the Finance Committee to suggest measures of retrenchment. I daresay the Government will consult the Finance Committee to the fullest possible extent as to the measures of retrenchment that are immediately possible in framing the budget. Beyond that, I do not think that the Government are ina position to accept the amendment; and as a member I must object to that amendment.

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[Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai.]

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: Sir, the resolution before the House really consists of two parts, *viz.*, (i) that a committee be appointed to consider the question of salaries and allowances, and (ii) that the expenditure on salaries and allowances be restricted to 30 per cent. of the annual income. For subtantially the same reasons as were urged by Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai, I oppose both the parts of the resolution. As was pointed out by my friend, no data were supplied by the mover of the resolution on the strength of which he proposed to restrict the expenditure to 30 per cent. of the actual income. This House will be committing itself to a very serious position if it accepts the resolution in the form in which it stands. As regards the question of retrenchment, even though the Salaries Committee finished their labours only very recently, there would be scope for further retrenchment in different departments which did not receive the attention of the Salaries Committee. For enquiring into the further possibilities of retrenchment, it appears to me that a fresh committee is not necessary. I agree with my friend Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai in thinking that this is a matter which is within the competence of the Finance Committee. Even though the amendment moved by Mr. Raman Pillai was not accepted on behalf of the Government, I take it that it will be within the purview of the Finance Committee, when considering the budget, to advise the Government as to the directions in which further retrenchment may be effected. With these remarks, I oppose the resolution.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution that has been brought forward by Mr. Kunjitomman. The mere fact that it says that the object of the committee should be to restrict the expenses under the head of salaries and allowances to 30 per cent. cannot raise any insuperable difficulty in extending our support to the resolution. We must, in construing the resolution, look at the spirit of it rather than its letter. The object with which Mr. Kunjitomman has brought forward this resolution is to recommend to Government the appointment of a committee for the purpose of investigating the whole question with a view to retrenchment, if possible, to the extent of 7 or 8 per cent., so as to reduce expenses under salaries and allowances to 30 per cent. It does not therefore mean that, if a committee is appointed and if that committee comes to the conclusion that it is not possible to reduce it to 30 per cent., but that it is only possible to reduce it to 33 per cent., the Committee's findings cannot be accepted by the Council. The resolution is that a committee should so investigate the matter as to find out whether it is not possible to reduce the expenses to 30 per cent. That is the gist of the resolution. Viewing it in that light, I have absolutely no difficulty in supporting it. It appears to me that it is absolutely necessary that an investigation should be made in the matter, especially in the present financial condition of the State.

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From the comparative statement given by Mr. George with reference to the percentage of expenditure under salaries and allowances in Travancore and Madras, it will be seen that the percentage of expenditure here under the head of salaries and allowances is not much less than that in British India. Here it is 37 per cent. under salaries and 2 per cent. under allowances, while in British India it is 38 per cent. under salaries and 3½ per cent. under allowances. He also told us that the officers there were paid much more substantial salaries than in Travancore. For instance, he told us that, among judicial officers, the Munsiffs are paid from Rs. 300 to Rs. 600, the maximum being higher than the salary of the Judges in our State. In spite of paying such higher salaries, they are able to keep the expense under salaries within 38 per cent. of the income, whereas, although we are paying our officers only much less than what officers of similar grades are paid in British India, our expenditure goes up to 37 per cent. To me, it seems that there is some fallacy somewhere in the figures given by Mr. George or that we are employing an unnecessarily large staff.

In comparing the salaries of officers here and in British India, Mr. George failed to compare the territorial jurisdiction of the officers there and here. We must take into consideration the area administered by a particular officer in British India and compare that with the area administered by a similar officer in Travancore. It would then be seen that we have for the same area a much larger number of officers than in British India. Probably, the increase of expenditure is due to that. For instance, in the Tinnevelly District whose area is almost equal to that of Travancore, at any rate not much less, there are only four or five District Munsiffs' courts whereas in Travancore we have 33 or 34, so that we cannot make any inference from the figures given by Mr. George. Hence, an enquiry into the matter will be very useful and, I should think, absolutely necessary in the light of the facts brought to our notice. With these remarks, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion brought forward by Mr. Kunjitomman.

MR G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, personally, I should have been glad if the amendment moved by Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai had been accepted or if at least permission had been granted to move that amendment. However, I take it that what Mr. Kunjitomman aims at by his resolution is to emphasise the fact that the question of expenditure under public service does admit of a re-examination with a view to still further reduction. On that understanding, I wish to make a few observations. Mr. George says that, after all, it is not necessary that a committee with a non-official majority as proposed by Mr. Kunjitomman should re-examine this question. He affirms his conviction that tremendous cuts have already been made in the subordinate service and that all possible retrenchment has been effected in the superior service as well, partly in pursuance of the recommendations of the Salaries Committee and partly through the exertions the Financial Department itself. But it will be seen that, whereas the expenditure unde superior service stood at Rs. 14½ lakhs before the reorganisation, it rosr

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[Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

to Rs. 16¼ lakhs after the so-called reorganisation with a view to retrenchment. I should certainly consider this to be a very unsatisfactory state of affairs.

MR. K. GEORGE: I explained it as being due to the creation of new posts in the superior service subsequent to 1094.

PRESIDENT: The reorganisation was in 1097.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I realise that. It was Rs. 14½ lakhs in 1094, whereas, in 1097, after the reorganisation and the so-called retrenchment, the figure stood at Rs. 16½ lakhs, which I consider to be unsatisfactory indeed. I ask if, as a matter of fact, any substantial reduction has been made in regard to the superior service. It was said that the direct increase due to the reorganisation on this account was only Rs 10,000. All the more is it necessary then that we should go carefully into this question. The increase in expenditure under the superior service, so far as it is above Rs. 10,000, should then be attributed to the creation of the new posts subsequent to 1094. In that view of the matter, I should consider that the superior service is over-manned and in certain respects over-paid. Mr. George compared the pay of the District Munsiff in Travancore with that of the District Munsiff elsewhere. It was clever on his part to have drawn the attention of the Council to the conditions in the Judicial Department, which, I admit, do not at all compare favourably in point of emoluments with those obtaining elsewhere. It would have been very interesting if Mr. George had referred the Council to the relative salaries in the Police and certain other departments and compared them with the several grades of superior service.

MR. W. H. PITT: Does the member know that the District Superintendent of Police in British India gets Rs. 1,750?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Yes. I know that, and that is why we have got here a Police Commissioner on Rs. 1,800. Whereas here a District Judge and a High Court Judge get Rs. 600 and Rs. 900 respectively, in Madras the salaries of the District Superintendent of Police and the Police Commissioner bear no comparison with those of a District Judge or a High Court Judge.

PRESIDENT. You are not right in regard to District Judges.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: But I am certain that nowhere else does the Police Commissioner get double the salary of a High Court Judge. I suppose that is really very extraordinary and is peculiar to Travancore alone. It is such absurd disparities in the salaries of heads of departments that account for extravagant expenditure on the public service. Again, the District Superintendent of Police gets Rs. 400 which corresponds to the pay of an Additional Sessions Judge of a District. That is also peculiar to Travancore. Of these matters the less said the better. A comparison of the pay of our officers with that of those in British India will be absolutely misleading.

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Conditions are not the same in both the cases. Even in British India (Madras not excepted), the people make low protests against the bloated public expenditure on account of salaries etc. Therefore it is wrong to compare our country with the Madras Presidency or any other part of British India which maintains a very costly public service.

Mr. George, then, relied on his usual plea of efficiency. Efficiency is certainly good in its own way. I should like very much indeed to have *really efficient* men appointed to responsible posts in the public service, for, I am sure, it will in the long run result in greater economy. It may then become possible to dispense with several Assistants, both personal and otherwise. If you want really efficient men, mere seniority should not count in the matter of promotion to the higher grades of the service. I am sure that Mr. George himself will have recognised this principle; and if only Government would pursue——

PRESIDENT: The question of promotion does not arise here.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: It arises this way, *i. e.*, if really efficient men alone are put in as heads of departments, we can do away with a large number of assistants whose services are now indispensable to the inefficient heads of departments. I should, in this connection, also say that the principles of recruitment to the public service have a direct bearing on the amount of expenditure incurred on that account. If properly trained sons of the soil alone are appointed in the higher grades of the service, greater economy will be secured. I am sure that gentlemen of the stamp of Dr. Kunjan Pillai and Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai will have the self-sacrifice to render service to their own country on a much lower salary than would be demanded by equally or less qualified men from outside. As already observed by me, comparisions with British India in point of salaries will often lead to absurd results. For instance, the Dewan who, in certain respects, corresponds to the Governor of a British Indian Province, is paid but the salary of a Collector in a British District. So then, in these matters, we should be guided more by our own local conditions and our own ideal of public expediency and we should adjust our finance accordingly. With these words, I would support the principle of the resolution moved by Mr. Kunjitomman.

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL: Sir, I oppose the resolution. The Salaries Committee has recently considered the whole question, department by department. The Efficiency Audit Officer also has been on special duty for a considerable time to tackle the whole question. The press is ever vigilant in pointing out the ways in which retrenchments in service may be effected. Various suggestions are also being made at the meetings of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. There is now a Finance Committee of the House which, I hope, will have ample scope to examine this question. The members will have the chance of discussing this question with the President of the committee. Any suggestion in this direction by any member of this House can be submitted to this committee. We have, again, ample opportunities during

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[Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.]

the course of the budget discussion to invite the attention of the Government to cases to which the pruning knife may safely be applied. We have further the assurance of the head of the administration that, if such cases are pointed out, they will be duly and readily considered. Three months hence, this House will have to discuss this point under the question of establishment charges. We have to consider in this connection the large expenses that may have to be incurred on committees. It is not advisable further, at the present stage of reorganisation, to fix a maximum of 30 per cent. of the total revenues of the State for the salaries and allowances of officers. It might ultimately turn out to be less or more. In consideration of all these facts, I think that there is not, at present, the necessity for such a committee.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: I support the principle underlying the resolution before the House and I think that there is much scope for retrenchment. It is argued that the Salaries Committee and the Efficiency Audit Officer have gone into the question of retrenchment and that therefore it is not necessary to appoint a committee and to waste time and money over that committee. But we are not satisfied that the Salaries Committee and the Efficiency Audit Officer have gone into the question of retrenchment properly. We think that the expenditure can be considerably reduced in various ways. The Salaries Committee was appointed only for the purpose of revising the salaries of certain officers of Government and the consideration of retrenchment was only a side-issue with them. Moreover, that committee was not invested with wide powers to go into the question of the salaries of the higher officers, though they have mentioned something about the higher officers in their report. The question of retrenchment has been very well considered in British Indian Provinces and in other Indian States. Even now, they are thinking of reconsidering the question in the light of the huge expenditure which they incur and the huge deficits they sustain. In Travancore, the general belief is that there are more officers in the public service than are wanted for efficient administration, and this general belief has been clearly expressed in the course of the discussion of the budget last year. I do not think that it would be of any avail to compare our expenditure with the expenditure in British India or Mysore. We have got the most costly public service in British India. We have only to consider the cost of living in this country and our revenue in fixing the salaries of officers. So I support the resolution.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: Sir, there is a public impression that officers in this country are too highly paid and that the expenditure under public service is abnormally high. It is easy to produce a set of figures to show that this impression is entirely unfounded. At the same time, it would be possible to give another set of figures and argue from the other side. With such conflicting views on the question, it is rather difficult to decide what is the proper course to be adopted in the matter under discussion. Therefore, it surely deserves to be looked into as carefully as possible. We have had enough of committees

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and conferences. Personally, I am not in favour of such conferences. I therefore support the spirit of Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai's amendment, without being prepared to vote for a committee. If the Finance Committee of this House could be directed to go into the matter very carefully, if in fact the investigation of this matter could be made one of the important functions of that committee, so that that committee might not only discuss the figures but explore all possible ways of reducing expenditure, I think that it would, under the circumstances, be a far more reasonable solution of the question than that of going the length of appointing a separate committee for the purpose.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN: എന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ചിലർ തെറ്റിദ്ധരിച്ചതായി വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. മുപ്പതു ശതമാനത്തിൽ അധികപ്പെടാതെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കണമെന്നല്ലാതെ മുപ്പതുതന്നെ ആയിരിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഇരുപത്തഞ്ചോ ഇരുപതോ ആയി കുറയ്ക്കാമെങ്കിൽ അധികം നല്ലതുതന്നെ. മുപ്പതിൽ അധികപ്പെടുന്നതുവളരെ കൂടുതലാണെന്നേ എനിക്ക് അഭിപ്രായമുള്ളൂ. ഏതായാലും കമ്മിറ്റിഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഗുണത്തിനേ വകയുള്ളൂ. ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ മെമ്പർ അന്യരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ ചിലവ് അധികമാണെന്നു കാണിക്കുന്ന ചില കണക്കുകൾ വിവരിക്കയുണ്ടായി. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ യൂറോപ്യന്മാരായ വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ വലിയശമ്പളങ്ങളിൽ നിയമിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. നമുക്ക് അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ ഇൻഡ്യയോടു തുല്യമായനിലയിൽ ഇവിടെയും ശമ്പളച്ചിലവു വന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു പരിതാപകരമാണെന്നു പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. മാതൃകാരാജ്യമായ നമ്മുടെ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ മറ്റു നാട്ടരാജ്യങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവു ചുരുക്കുന്നവിഷയത്തിലും മാതൃകയായിരിക്കുന്നതു നമുക്കു അഭിമാനകരവുംകൂടിയാണ്. ആയതിനാൽ, ശമ്പളച്ചിലവും പടിയും കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ട മാർഗ്ഗം നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുവാൻ കമ്മിറ്റിഏർപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്നുള്ള എന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെ നിങ്ങൾ ഏവരും അനുകൂലിക്കണമെന്നു വീണ്ടും അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. K. GEORGE: Sir, I have not much to add to what I have already said on the subject. One point that has been urged by most of the speakers was that the comparison of the salaries of posts obtaining in British India with those obtaining here is not quite apt. As regards that, it has to be pointed out that some basis of comparison is necessary. Such comparisons are natural and the comparison that I have instituted is the only possible comparison; and I have clearly shown that, so far as the superior establishment is concerned, the comparison reveals the position in Travancore to be better than elsewhere. For instance, I referred in my previous speech only to the Judicial Department. But

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[Mr. K. George.]

I shall ask my friend Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai to refer to the Madras Budget and see for himself whether in any department there is any officer of the corresponding rank getting anything like the salary paid here. Let us take, for instance, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras. He gets Rs. 3,250. Our Chief Secretary gets only Rs. 700 to Rs. 900.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I wish to know whether our Chief Secretary can be said to correspond to the Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, when that Presidency is twenty-three times as large as our State.

MR. K. GEORGE: Our Chief Secretary is also as fully employed. He has, I believe, got the same qualifications.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is there any Secretary to the Collecter of a District in British India?

PRESIDENT: Yes, there is the Personal Assistant to the Collector.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: What is his pay?

PRESIDENT: That depends upon the cadre to which he belongs. If he is a provincial service man, he gets Rs 600. If he belongs to the I. C. S. he goes up to Rs. 2,500.

MR. K. GEORGE: As I said, the comparison only reveals how much less expensive our services are. Our Peishkars get only very much less than a District Collector in British India who gets Rs. 2,500. I do not mean to say that we must increase the salary of the officers here.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: May I know what is the highest income of a Vakil practising before a District Court in British India and that of a similar Vakil in Travancore?

MR. K. GEORGE: I have absolutely no idea as to the income of a Vakil in British India. I believe our Vakils get very much the same income as Vakils elsewhere.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: I believe that the Income-tax Commissioner will be able to supply that information.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: He is not at liberty to give it out.

MR. K. GEORGE: My object in making a comparison with other provinces is to show that, after all, the salaries paid in Travancore are very low. To cut down the remuneration that obtains now is, to my mind, impossible.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: What is the area under the jurisdiction of a District Superintendent of Police in the Madras Presidency and under a similar jurisdiction in Travancore?

MR. K. GEORGE: I am not aware of that, but I should say that the pay is not to be based exclusively with reference to the area of the jurisdiction. Population is another factor to be considered.

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MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: What is the territorial area or population?

MR. K. GEORGE: I cannot say.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY: May I know whether the finances of the Madras Presidency are in a flourishing condition?

MR. K. GEORGE: If the member had been reading the recent speeches of the Finance Member in the Madras Legislative Council, he would have seen that the finances of the Madras Presidency are not in a flourishing condition; but they do not attribute it to the increase in the salaries. They attribute it to the contribution that is payable to the Imperial Government.

MR. L. C. HODGSON: What does the Professor of English in the Presidency College get?

PRESIDENT: Are you putting that question?

MR. L. C. HODGSON: Yes.

PRESIDENT: To whom are you putting the question?

MR. L. C. HODGSON: To Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.

PRESIDENT: You cannot put the question to him now.

MR. L. C. HODGSON: Does any member know it?

PRESIDENT: You cannot put the question to the whole House.

MR. K. GEORGE: We have all the units of administration here, all that the Madras Presidency has. Supposing that the Goverment had been regulating their expenditure according to what obtains in British India, what would have been our expenditure on education? We would have been spending much less than we are actually spending. That comparison is altogether fallacious. We cannot compare simply with reference to area. Taking then everything into consideration, I say that the salary that obtains in Travancore is not at all too much.

Mr. Velu Pillai said that the Government have been indiscriminately creating new appointments in recent years. That might have been so. But, at present, the Council can rest content with the assurance that every new appointment, before it is sanctioned, is being placed before the Finance Committee. Recently also, certain matters relating to new appointments were placed before the committee.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: They are only those concerning such charges as are votable, I believe.

MR. K. GEORGE: The G. O. provides for every new scheme being placed before the Finance Committee. Ordinarily, the creation of new appointments will be placed before that committee; so that there is no necessity for entertaining any fear that in future things will be done behind the back of the Council.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: We shall have to find it out in the discussion of the budget.

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[Mr. K. George.]

PRESIDENT: The non-official members of the Finance Committee represent the non-official side of the Council.

MR. K. GEORGE: Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai referred to the recent increase of salaries. I took the figures as they were before the Government gave the scarcity allowance for the first time. It was from the budget of 1095, because, during 1095, the scarcity allowance came into force. They were not the actuals of 1095.

MR. G PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I referred to the expenditure under superior service which does not admit of any scarcity allowance.

MR. K. GEORGE: I merely explain that the figures related to 1095. The increase of Rs. 1,34,000 was also explained by me as having been due to a certain extent to the creation of posts, partly in certain development departments such as Education and Industries and partly also—*i. e.*, 7/8 lakhs—due to the increase under salaries owing to the reorganisation in the Devaswom Department. A large portion of the increase went to the superior staff. Several new posts had to be created during the course of two or three years. So, by analysing that increase, it would be found that it is due mostly to the creation of posts owing to the exigencies of service.

Mr. Madhava Variar said that the review by the Salaries Committee was only a side-issue. All the same, the Salaries Committee was allowed a free hand. This can be seen from the report itself. They have traversed the whole service. They have made recommendations not only about subordinate posts, but also regarding the higher posts. A list of posts that they recommended to be abolished is appended to the report. It was not a side-issue. Although, at the first stage, the question of retrenchment was not referred to the Committee, the Government felt that it was the proper occasion to give that committee the right of considering the question.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI: What does the Cochin Government spend on salaries?

MR. K. GEORGE: I have not got the latest budget figures.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: The Financial Secretary refers to the Salaries Committee's report. Does he know that the non-official members of the Council have not been supplied with copies of that report?

PRESIDENT: He is not responsible for that. (*Laughter.*) I think the Salaries Committee submitted their report long before this Council was created. If you want, you may ask for a copy and get it.

MR. K. GEORGE: Mr. Madhava Variar referred to the various retrenchment committees that have been constituted in Madras and Mysore. After all, retrenchment is not a pleasant operation. No doubt, from the standpoint of the tax-payer we should retrench all the superfluous appointments. But all the same, when we use the axe mercilessly, it involves a great deal of personal suffering. We have just had retrenchment, and it has no doubt caused some dislocation in departmental work, and it has caused also some hardship to individuals. Several of the acting and temporary hands have been thrown out of employment and

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several men holding permanent posts are continued as supernumeraries. So, retrenchment is not a thing which we can lightly think of.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Is the probable suffering of men thrown out of employment the test to be applied by a financier in this case?

MR. K. GEORGE: I never suggested that.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: What is the view of the Government in the matter?

MR K. GEORGE: Government's view is the same. At the same time, Government have also to consider the question of hardship to its employees. It is not fair all on a sudden to throw out a number of employees. I say that we have just finished our retrenchment and we have had no time yet to recover from the resulting dislocation. We can go into the matter gradually. As I said before, I still think that just at present another committee is not needed. Both the Finance Committee and this House itself, when discussing the budget, will have occasion to go into the question. With these words, I oppose the motion.

PRESIDENT: Do you press the resolution to a division, Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN: [illegible].

The resolution was put to the vote and lost.

A poll was demanded and it was taken with the following result:—

AYES—18.

Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.	Mr. J. John Nidiry.
,, M. N. Pillai.	,, P. K. Narayana Pillai.
,, N. Ramakrishna Pillai.	,, S. Krishna Aiyar.
,, T. K. Velu Pillai.	,, N. Kumaran.
,, G. Paramesvaran Pillai.	,, T. Kumara Pillai.
,, K. Paramesvaran Pillai.	,, Tariatu Kunjitomman.
,, K. Dominic Tomman.	,, C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.
,, N. Padmanabha Pillai.	,, A. Govinda Menon.
,, Joseph Panjikaran.	,, T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.

NOES—22.

Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.	Mr. K. George.
,, S. Subramanya Karayalar.	,, L. C. Hodgson.
,, K. P. Raman Pillai.	Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.
Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.	Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.
Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.	Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
Mr. Paul V. Daniel.	,, W. H. Pitt.
,, M. K. KhadirPillai.	,, M. Raja Raja Varma.
,, I. C. Chacko.	Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai.	Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
,, K. V. Natesa Aiyar.	,, V. Subba Aiyar.
,, N. Nilakanda Pillai.	,, A. J. Van Ross.

The resolution was declared lost.

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